

NEWS

For immediate release



MARICOPA COUNTY
Environmental Services Department
1001 N. Central, Suite 550
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Friday, April 28, 2000

Contact: Courtney James at (602) 506-6948 or pager 420-7874

Amy Rex at (602) 506-6016

COUNTY'S VOLUNTARY VEHICLE REPAIR AND RETROFIT BACK IN SERVICE LEGISLATURE COMMITS \$2.7 MILLION FOR CLEAN AIR PROGRAMS

(PHOENIX) -- Maricopa County plans to help 3000 gross polluting cars run cleaner, using \$2.7 million of new appropriations allocated from the state legislature to continue running the popular Voluntary Vehicle Repair and Retrofit (VVR) program. The VVR program was one of the top priorities for the Governor Hull's Air Quality Strategies Task Force. As a result, an estimated 600 metric tons of pollution is expected to be eliminated.

"We feel very fortunate to be given the opportunity to continue such a successful program that has a direct and immediate impact on improving air quality," said Maricopa County Supervisor Don Stapley.

From January 1999 through March 2000, 1560 cars were repaired to meet air quality standards, removing 300 tons of pollution from the valley's air before exhausting the initial appropriation of \$800,000.

Until HB 2104 becomes law this summer and changes requirements, residents participating in the program will continue to pay the first \$100 of the repair or retrofit as a co-payment. Maricopa County will pay up to an additional \$400 for repairs or an additional \$500 for the retrofit kit and installation.

To qualify for the program, the vehicle must be functionally operational; the vehicle must be 12 years older than the current calendar year; documentation must show that the vehicle has been registered for at least two years in metropolitan Maricopa County and has an Arizona title; and has failed the emissions test within the last 60 days. No reimbursements will be made for work that has already been done on a vehicle.

Once the vehicle has been accepted in the program, an appointment is scheduled with one of the repair facilities participating in the program. Participants take their title, registration and failure notice to the repair facility for the repair and/or retrofit to the vehicle. Vehicles able to accept the retrofit kit will be encouraged to have one installed. The technician will verify that the vehicle is able to pass the emissions test and take it to an emission station for a re-test.

"The program continues to be convenient, easy to use, and one of the most cost-effective programs for eliminating air pollution from tailpipe emissions," said Stapley.